SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—Government are against taking action in the manner proposed. Their policy is to leave intact all Forest Reserves. I admit that some areas *may* be found in the Reserves which are devoid of tree growth and which are fit for cultivation. But the assignment of such areas to private individuals for cultivation will create numerous difficulties. The protection of Reserved Forests, with patches of cultivation scattered all over them, is a difficult matter.

30. Exclusion of the Kumarenperur North and South and Vattapara tracts from the Reserves.

Mr. Aiyappan Aiyappan (Member, Chengannur Taluk) represented that the ryots were labouring under several difficulties, in consequence of the policy of Government with regard to Reserves. Reserved Forests extended up to human habitations and there were therefore no areas available to the people for agriculture. Besides, tapioca and other roots cultivated by the poor peasants were being destroyed by wild beasts coming in from the forests in the vicinity. The Member, therefore, requested that the Kumarenperur North and South, and Vattappara tracts, which embraced most of the inhabited quarters in the Kumbazha and Rani proverthies, might be excluded from the proposed Reserves, along with similar areas in other taluks, thus allowing a sufficient area for all the requirements of the growing population.

Dewan's reply.—The Kumaranperur North and South Reserves were notified so long ago as May 1902. That was the preliminary Notification. The Peishkar of the Division is making enquiries in connection with the settlement. He will be instructed to proceed to Rani and enquire into the complaints about the proposed Reserves and make the settlement on the spot. It is open to Government to exclude any portion of the area before final Notification. The allegation that some of the populated area in the Kumpuzha and Rani proverthies falls within the Kumaranperur North and South proposed Reserves will be enquired into. I shall visit Rani and inspect the areas myself before passing the final Notification. The Vattapara block is a small area of about 50 acres. Its reservation is necessary for protecting the teak plantation. That Reserve will not be given up.

31. Registry of the grazing grounds and waste lands adjoining registered lands in the Forest Reserves.

Mr. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) represented that the ryots experienced much difficulty on account of the lands surrounding their fields being reserved. Their crops were being destroyed during the rainy season by floods coming down from the Reserves.

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